

ORIGINAL  
**APS**



0000104870

RECEIVED

Leland R. Snook  
Director  
State Regulation & Pricing

Tel. 602-250-3730  
Fax 602-250-3003  
e-mail Leland.Snook@aps.com

2009 NOV 10 P 1:11

Mail Station 9708  
PO Box 53999  
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

November 10, 2009

Docket Control  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Arizona Public Service Company Sundance to Pinal South Project  
Transmission Line Project, Decision No. 70325  
Docket No. L-00000D-07-0682-00136

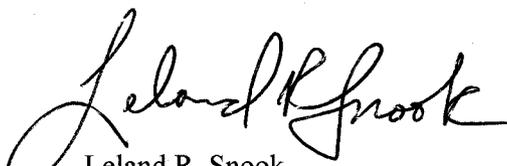
Pursuant to Decision No. 70325, dated April 29, 2008, Condition No. 10:

“Before construction on this Project may commence, the Applicant must file a construction mitigation and restoration plan ("Plan") with ACC Docket Control. Where practicable, the Plan shall specify that the Applicant use existing roads for construction and access, minimize impacts to wildlife, minimize vegetation disturbance outside of the Project right-of-way, and revegetate native areas following construction disturbance.”

Arizona Public Service Company is hereby filing its Construction Mitigation and Restoration Plan for the Sundance to Pinal South 230-kV Transmission Line Project.

If you should have any questions, please contact Jeff Johnson at 602-250-2661.

Sincerely,

  
Leland R. Snook

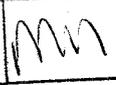
LS/tem

Attachments

CC: Prem Bahl  
Brian Bozzo

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

NOV 10 2009

DOCKETED BY 

**CONSTRUCTION, MITIGATION, AND RESTORATION PLAN**

**Arizona Public Service Company  
Sundance to Pinal South 230-kV Project**

**November 2009**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GENERAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND MITIGATION PLAN....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.0 PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES .....	2
1.1 <i>Survey of the Centerline</i> .....	2
1.2 <i>Access and Spur Roads</i> .....	2
1.3 <i>Structure Construction Staging Areas</i> .....	2
1.4 <i>Conductor Stringing, Tensioning, and Pulling Areas</i> .....	2
1.5 <i>Vegetation Avoidance and Sensitive Plant Identification</i> .....	2
1.6 <i>Jurisdictional Washes</i> .....	3
1.7 <i>Informational Signs</i> .....	3
2.0 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.....	4
2.1 <i>Vegetation Clearing</i> .....	4
2.2 <i>Removal of Obstructions</i> .....	4
2.3 <i>Construction Area Requirements</i> .....	4
2.4 <i>Grading</i> .....	4
2.5 <i>Cultural Resources-Discoveries</i> .....	5
2.6 <i>Special Conditions</i> .....	5
3.0 POST-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES .....	6
3.1 <i>Cleanup and Reclamation of Affected Area(s)</i> .....	6
3.2 <i>Soil Replacement and Stabilization</i> .....	6
3.2.1 <i>Recontouring of Disturbed Areas</i> .....	6

## Attachments

Attachment A.....	Phase 1 Construction Drawing
-------------------	------------------------------

## INTRODUCTION

The Sundance to Pinal South 230-kV Transmission Line Project Construction, Mitigation, and Restoration Plan (CMRP) has been developed in accordance with Condition 10 of the Certificate of Environmental Compatibility (CEC).<sup>1</sup> This condition states that:

*“Before construction on the Project may commence, the Applicant must file a construction mitigation and restoration plan (“Plan”) with the ACC Docket Control. Where practicable, the Plan shall specify that the Applicant use existing roads for construction and access, minimize impacts to wildlife, minimize vegetation disturbance outside of the Project right-of-way, and revegetate native areas following construction disturbance.”*

The goals of the Plan will be to:

- Avoid impacts;
- Where impacts are unavoidable, minimize impacts; and
- Focus on site preparation to facilitate natural processes of revegetation.

## GENERAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND MITIGATION PLAN

The Sundance to Pinal South 230-kV project will be constructed in several phases. This CMRP addresses the first phase of construction, which will be confined to the Sundance Generating Station (Sundance) site and includes the line route from the existing Western Area Power Administration 230-kV substation adjacent to the existing Sundance plant to a new 230-kV/69-kV substation to be located on APS property. Construction of this first phase will take approximately six months, and is expected to be in-service in the second quarter of 2010.

Following is a general sequential description of the construction activities associated with the first phase of construction for the Sundance to Pinal South 230-kV Project. The activities and mitigation processes are described in the following primary groups:

- Pre-construction Activities;
- Construction Activities; and
- Post-construction Activities.

---

<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision No. 70325.

## **1.0 Pre-Construction Activities**

Pre-construction activities include surveying for transmission line design; designation of access and spur roads; designation of structure construction staging areas; designation of conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas; identification of biological and cultural resources; and providing notice and securing permits that will be necessary before construction.

### ***1.1 Survey of the Centerline***

Ground survey and staking will be performed to verify and locate the centerline of the transmission line route, structure locations, and right-of-way boundaries. The right-of-way width will generally range between 100 to 130 feet. Activities will be limited to access and spur roads; designated structure construction staging areas; and conductor stringing, pulling and tensioning areas.

### ***1.2 Access and Spur Roads***

Where possible, existing paved and unpaved highways and roads will be used for the initial transportation of materials and equipment from the construction yard and storage areas to locations where they will be needed along the transmission line right-of-way. Where the proposed transmission line parallels existing transmission lines or other linear features, existing access roads will be used, and new spur roads to structure sites will be constructed (as appropriate). Spur roads are roads developed off of existing roads or access roads to reach structure locations. Access and spur roads will be approximately 30 feet wide. If necessary, existing roads will be upgraded, and all permanent roads utilized will be left in a condition equal to or better than their condition prior to construction. Any access not needed for the maintenance of the transmission line will be designated temporary access and will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

### ***1.3 Structure Construction Staging Areas***

Structure construction staging areas will be located at each structure site. These areas will be used for structure assembly and erection. The size of the staging area depends on the type of structure used. At the tower locations, staging areas will be approximately 100 feet by 200 feet. Exceptions to staging area dimensions may occur due to environmental constraints.

### ***1.4 Conductor Stringing, Tensioning, and Pulling Areas***

Conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas will be located at intervals between structures along the right-of-way. These areas will be approximately 100 feet by 400 feet. Exceptions to dimensions may occur due to environmental constraints.

### ***1.5 Vegetation Avoidance and Sensitive Plant Identification***

The first phase of construction occurs primarily on previously disturbed land with no qualifying plant species along this route. The occurrence of natural vegetation along this portion of the proposed project is limited.

### ***1.6 Jurisdictional Washes***

There are no jurisdictional washes in the vicinity of the first phase of project development.

### ***1.7 Informational Signs***

Informational signs were placed on the project site to provide notice of the future transmission line.

## **2.0 Construction Activities**

This portion of the Plan addresses construction clearing requirements (when necessary), grading, and monitoring. Prior to the commencement of construction activities, an APS resource specialist will instruct all construction personnel in cultural and biological sensitivity.

### ***2.1 Vegetation Clearing***

Vegetation clearing will follow best management practices incorporating American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 Part 7, Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) practices, which are recognized industry wide. IVM is a system of managing plant communities whereby managers set objectives, identify compatible and incompatible vegetation, consider action thresholds, and evaluate, select, and implement the most appropriate control methods.

### ***2.2 Removal of Obstructions***

If necessary, the removal of trees, limbs, brush, and obstructions to access will be removed for safety reasons and limited to those that hang over the roadway, hindering the driver's sight, or those with less than 12 feet of vertical clearance above the access roads. Pruning will follow ANSI A-300 Part 1 Guidelines.

### ***2.3 Construction Area Requirements***

Construction areas include access roads, structure construction staging areas, and sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling. Disturbance to access roads (limited to only a few areas), structure construction staging areas, and sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling will consist of trimming of shrubs and small trees at ground level, to allow for re-sprouting, where applicable. Areas that will be disturbed include:

- Permanent and temporary access (including new and upgrades);
- Structure construction staging areas (approximately 100 by 200 feet at pole and tower locations) to allow efficient and safe assembly and erection of structures;
- Sites for conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling at intervals and located between structures along the right-of-way (approximately 100 by 400 feet);
- Lay-down areas; and
- Substation grading.

### ***2.4 Grading***

Grading will be limited to the construction of access, spur roads and substation site. Some access will utilize existing roads. The method of restoration will consist of returning disturbed areas back to their original condition.

### ***2.5 Cultural Resources-Discoveries***

No further archaeological work or monitoring is required for this phase of the current project. However, if previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered during construction, the contractor is to immediately stop work at that location, take steps to protect that resource, and immediately contact the APS archaeologist so that proper steps may be taken for the appropriate treatment of that resource.

### ***2.6 Special Conditions***

Dust control measures will be used on all roads when dust creates a nuisance or hazard and will include the following:

- Where necessary, water will be used to control dust when grading roads, and will be applied to unpaved roads, a potential source of airborne dust;
- Open-bodied trucks transporting materials that are likely to become airborne when in motion will be covered, and other stockpiles will be enclosed as necessary; and
- Earthen, and other, materials that may become airborne will be removed promptly from paved roads.

### **3.0 Post-Construction Activities**

The ultimate success of mitigating measures used for the project depends to a great extent on the reclamation practices taken for lands following construction of facilities. The following describes the stabilization and rehabilitation measures proposed for the construction of the project.

#### ***3.1 Cleanup and Reclamation of Affected Area(s)***

Construction sites and access roads will be kept in an orderly condition throughout the construction period. Refuse and trash will be removed from the sites and disposed of in an approved manner (e.g., in an approved landfill).

Temporary access roads, structure construction staging areas, and conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas will be restored to their original conditions when construction is complete. After construction, the land will be restored to its original contour. Disturbance during construction will be minimized by the trimming of shrubs and small trees in structure construction staging areas and conductor stringing, tensioning, and pulling areas, where applicable. This will increase the chances of vegetation re-establishment in disturbed areas. Revegetation will not be applied to disturbed areas designated as permanent access.

#### ***3.2 Soil Replacement and Stabilization***

The majority of this phase of the project crosses agricultural land for which the topsoil has not been preserved. The construction contractor will, when appropriate, recontour cleared areas and replace and stabilize soil over temporary access roads.

The grading and the movement of earth will be limited to access road areas, substation site, and areas where recontouring is necessary. All disturbed areas will be reshaped to conform to the adjacent terrain as nearly as practical.

##### ***3.2.1 Recontouring of Disturbed Areas***

The construction contractor shall recontour disturbed areas by grading, to restore the site to approximately the original contour of the ground. All site areas that require grading will be sloped to drain appropriately.

# Attachment A

